

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-88 (Canceled)

Claim 89 (Previously Presented): A stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide that consists of 20 to 100 nucleotides when single-stranded, or 20 to 100 base-pairs when double-stranded, which stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide contains at least one nonmethylated octamer CG motif of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9);

wherein said stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide is chemically modified and resistant to degradation by nucleases in the human body compared to the corresponding unmodified, oligodeoxyribonucleotide in a natural form that is sensitive to the nucleases in the human body.

Claim 90 (Previously Presented): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 that is stabilized by a modified backbone selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate, a phosphorodithioate, a phosphodiester-phosphorothioate mixture, a methylphosphonate, and a stabilization at a 3' or 5' end.

Claim 91 (Previously Presented): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89, wherein the cytosine in said motif is replaced with 5-bromocytosine.

Claim 92 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising the stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

Claim 93 (Currently Amended): A method for treating a tumor ~~cancer~~ comprising intratumoral administration of administering an effective amount of the stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 94 (Previously Presented): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 which is single-stranded.

Claim 95 (Previously Presented): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 which is double-stranded.

Claim 96 (Previously Presented): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 that contains several nonmethylated octameric CG motifs of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9).

Claim 97 (Previously Presented): The stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide of Claim 89 that contains two or three nonmethylated octameric CG motifs of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9).

Claim 98 (Currently Amended): A stabilized oligodeoxyribonucleotide that consists of 20 to 100 nucleotides when single-stranded, or 20 to 100 base-pairs when double-stranded, which stabilized oligonucleotide contains at least one nonmethylated octameric CG motif of the sequence AACGTTAT (nucleotides 9-16 of SEQ ID NO: 9), and that has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, 10, 16, 21, 31, 33, 34 and 35.

Claim 99 (Previously Presented): The composition of Claim 92, comprising an encapsulating agent.

Claim 100 (Previously Presented): The composition of Claim 92, comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 101 (Cancelled)

Claim 102 (Previously Presented): The composition of Claim 92, wherein the oligodeoxyribonucleotide is coupled to a molecule that increases the affinity of the composition to a tumor.

Claim 103 (Previously Presented): The composition of Claim 92, wherein the oligodeoxyribonucleotide is coupled to an antibody specific for tumor tissue.

Claim 104 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 93, wherein said subject is human.

Claim 105 (Cancelled)

Claim 106 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 93, wherein the tumor is located in the central or peripheral ~~said subject has cancer of the~~ nervous system.

Claim 107 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 93, wherein the tumor is selected from the group consisting of said subject has astrocytomas, glioblastomas, medulloblastomas, neuroblastomas, melanomas [[or]] and carcinomas.